

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 29th state Senate District is ensuring **Brooklyn, Canterbury, Putnam, Thompson, Windham, Scotland, Mansfield** and **Killingly** receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010:

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$81,236,794
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,122,611
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$1,902,649
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$913,499
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$12,477,733
Total State Funds to the 29th District	\$97,653,286



Preserving Connecticut Farmland

Much of Connecticut’s farmland and open space is in jeopardy of being paved over, threatening the state’s farming industry and quality of life. This new law helps the state permanently protect 1,300 acres of farmland across Connecticut. Thanks to the new law, farmers will have greater certainty that the land they depend on won’t be taken away. A special board will also review options for preserving more open space and farmland—a boost for the economy and the environment.

Supporting Connecticut’s Dairy Farmers



Dairy farmers throughout Connecticut and across the country are being hit extremely hard by these tough financial times. Many are on the brink of bankruptcy. The General Assembly approved \$10 million of emergency assistance to help keep these farmers working. A new law also creates an account to assist dairy farmers and funds it by temporarily increasing municipal recording fees. By passing this legislation, Connecticut is investing in a valuable resource and providing aid to one of the oldest industries in our state.

Funding Saved for Safe Schools

It’s hard to imagine anything more important than the safety of our children. That’s why I worked hard to protect threatened funding for school security improvements in **Putnam, Mansfield, and Killingly**. Thanks to this state support, these towns will be able to purchase surveillance cameras, entryway buzzer systems, scan cards and other systems to improve security.



Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. At the same time, the state’s budget deficit reached a record high of \$8.5 billion.

Our challenge this legislative session was not simply to balance the budget; we were determined to help grow jobs and protect working families and middle class folks who are struggling to survive the recession.

We did it by passing a fair budget that makes tough cuts, protects funding for education and small businesses, and avoids across-the-board tax increases. I’m also pleased that we passed bills that will help fight breast cancer, protect consumers from identify theft and preserve our environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore

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Sign-up to receive *Capitol News*, my monthly e-mail newsletter. It’s a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov



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I’m proud to represent the
29th Senate District:
Brooklyn
Canterbury
Putnam
Thompson
Windham
Scotland
Mansfield
Killingly

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**Senate President Pro Tempore
Donald E. Williams, Jr.**
29th District

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Democrats also made the tax code fairer by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.



Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services:

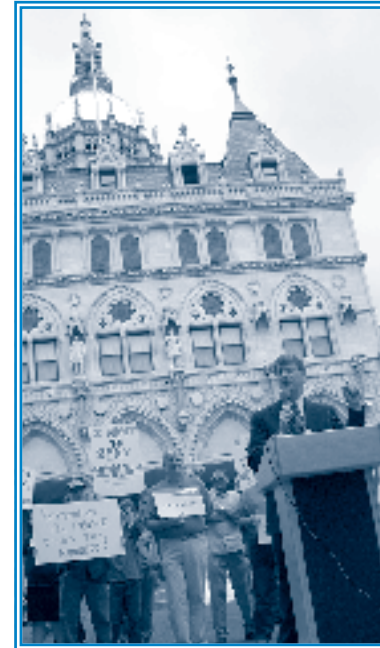
- ▶ **The LIFE STAR** medical helicopter saves lives, and is an especially vital service for those in rural parts of the state.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** help students and their parents afford college and create the opportunities of tomorrow.
- ▶ **Public libraries** add so much to our towns and cities. Across-the-board cuts, as some proposed, would have hit them hard.
- ▶ **School-based health centers** help protect children from epidemics, such as the flu. Deep cuts to these centers would have undermined public health.
- ▶ **Family Resource Centers** provide critical development for children and support for families.



Comprehensive Health Care Reform

Skyrocketing health care costs are squeezing businesses and families. President Obama has said the status quo is unaffordable—that's why he's fighting for national reform and why we're working hard on health care in Connecticut.

Thanks to the passage of Sustinet, Connecticut is well positioned to be a national leader on health care reform. This bold initiative seeks to overhaul the state's health care system by focusing on improved quality and access to services, addressing coverage for the uninsured and controlling skyrocketing costs. The legislature will receive detailed recommendations in 2011 with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access.



Speaking out at a rally in front of the State Capitol in support of health care programs.

Fighting Breast Cancer With Early Detection

A key part in the fight against breast cancer is early detection, which is why the General Assembly enacted legislation that focuses on communication of mammographic breast density information to patients. When applicable, all mammography reports given to a patient must include this notice: "If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide small abnormalities, you might benefit from supplementary screening tests, which can include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast MRI examination."



Criminal Penalties for Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious crime that can have devastating consequences for victims who spend, on average, \$1,180 and 60 hours cleaning up their credit record. Damaged credit makes it tough to get a good interest rate on a car loan, home mortgage or credit card. This year, we created a new law that expands the definition of "identity theft" and increases the penalties for those who target seniors.

HELPING FAMILIES SURVIVE THE RECESSION

For Those on the Brink of Foreclosure

The housing market crash has had a devastating effect on our state and national economies. Connecticut has been a leader in its effort to keep people in their homes and stabilize property values for all homeowners. We built on that success this year by expanding two important mortgage assistance programs.

A new law now requires banks and homeowners to work together to explore options before any foreclosure takes place. The law also improves regulation of mortgage professionals and expands the banking commissioner's enforcement and investigative authority.



Relief From Rising Property Taxes

A new law gives municipalities and local taxpayers some relief from the cost of property revaluations. Local governments, including the small towns in the 29th Senate District, can now share resources for conducting revaluations. The new law has the potential to cut costs in half—saving towns and taxpayers valuable dollars.

JOB, JOB, JOB

The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers. A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

We also addressed one of the largest challenges facing small businesses: the cost of health care. We passed a bill that would have given businesses access to the state health insurance pool, lowering premiums and saving employees and employers money. Unfortunately the governor vetoed this bill.

